BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **Retail revenues in B.C. rose 0.4% in May**
- **Investment in new housing construction in B.C. dropped 2.2% in May**
- **Police-reported crimes in British Columbia fell 3.0% in 2012**

The Economy

- **Revenues in British Columbia's retail sector rose 0.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, following a 0.7% decline observed in the previous month.** Sales were stronger at gas stations (+6.6%), furniture and home furnishings stores (+3.0%), general merchandise stores (+1.9%), motor vehicle and parts dealers (+1.5%), and electronics and appliance stores (+1.3%). Miscellaneous store retailers (-3.1%) recorded the largest drop in revenues. Sales were also lower at sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores (-1.4%), health and personal care stores (-1.2%), clothing & clothing accessory stores (-0.8%), food and beverage stores (-0.6%), and building maintenance, garden equipment & supplies dealers (-0.4%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Nationally, retail sales expanded 1.9%, boosted particularly by higher retail revenues in Saskatchewan (+5.0%), Quebec (+3.1%), and Ontario (+1.8%).** All provinces across the country recorded stronger sales, though British Columbia (+0.4%) trailed behind the rest. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Investment in new housing construction (*unadjusted, 2007 constant prices*) in the province dropped in May, falling 2.2% over the same month of 2012, to $573.3 million.** This marks the first contraction since April 2010 (-5.1%). Lower levels of investment in single (-3.5%) and row (-20.7%) housing construction were behind the decline. Investment was higher for apartment construction, reaching $236.2 million (+3.9%), as well for as semi-detached (double) dwellings (+8.1%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Wages

- **Average weekly earnings of payroll employees in British Columbia were $881.23 in May (*seasonally adjusted, current dollars*), $9.12 higher than in the previous month (+1.0%).** Nationally, employee wages averaged $914.68, a rise of 0.9% over the previous month. Average weekly earnings in British Columbia ranked behind Alberta ($1113.94), Saskatchewan ($941.53), Newfoundland & Labrador ($939.59), and Ontario ($921.88).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- **There were 357,192 police-reported criminal code violations in British Columbia in 2012, a decline of 2.0% from 2011.** There were 71 incidents of homicide, down from 87 in 2011. Murder in the first degree accounted for 28 (-30.7%) incidents. The number of police-reported attempted murders rose to 83 (+4.0%).

  The number of level 1 sexual assaults (*any form of non-consensual sexual activity*) dropped 5.0%, to 2,545, alongside level 2 incidents (*involving a weapon or bodily harm*), which fell to 40 (-20.8%). Level 3 sexual assaults (*aggravated*) fell 48.0%, to 9 incidents, an encouraging improvement from the 2010 figure of 49 incidents.

  There were 217,767 (+0.3%) total property crime violations, including 97 arsons (+33.4%). The number of break and enters to steal a firearm rose 14.4%, to 119. This figure has risen steadily and notably in recent years, up from just 11 incidents in 2008. On the other hand,

Did you know...

From 1947 to 1986, it was illegal to sell stoves on a Wednesday in Vancouver.

Source: Weird British Columbia Laws (Thorburn)

motor vehicle thefts have fallen 44.7% since 2008, with incidents totalling 12,584 in 2012.

- **Nationally, the rate of criminal code violations (*excluding traffic*) was 5,588 per 100,000 population**. B.C. (7,727) ranked third provincially, behind Saskatchewan (11,513, –7.0%) and Manitoba (8,809, -2.0%). The lowest rates were in Ontario (4,016, –4.0%) and Quebec (4,316, –3.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

National Household Survey

- **In 2011, 76.9% of commuters in British Columbia travelled via a truck, car, or van.** Those who drove alone accounted for 63.5% of all commuters. Sustainable transportation methods, such as public transit (12.6%), and active transportation (walking or biking, 8.8%) accounted for 21.4% of commuting. Motorcycles, scooter, and moped users made up 0.3% of commuters, while 1.4% travelled via other methods. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales and service occupations represented 23.7% of total employment in British Columbia in 2011.** Of self-employed individuals, management occupations represented the largest share, at 21.0%, while business, finance & administration workers accounted for 34.7% of unpaid family workers. Within each individual occupation, chiropractors had the highest proportion of self employment (*including unpaid family workers*), at 90.5%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Safety

- **There have been 43 deaths due to drowning in British Columbia so far in 2013, up from 25 in the same period of 2012.** According to the annual report, Accidental Drowning Deaths 2008-2012, incidents taking place between May and August account for 58.7% of all drowning deaths in the province. Males (81.1%) made up the majority of decedents, at 322 deaths over the five year period, compared to 75 (18.9%) women.

  Drownings that occurred while the decedent was engaged in recreational activities accounted for 50.4% of deaths, while 5.5% occurred on the job, and 44.1% were caused by other activities, such as motor vehicle accidents, falls into water, and deaths in bathtubs. Individuals aged 20 to 29 had the largest share of deaths (20.9%), followed closely by the 50 to 59 year-old cohort (19.7%).

  Regionally, most drowning occurred in the Interior (35.5%), and on the Island (24.4%). B.C. residents made up 87.4% of drowning deaths, while decedents from out of the province (6.3%) and out of the country (6.3%) accounted for equal shares of the remainder.
  Data Source: BC Coroners Service & The Lifesaving Society of BC and Yukon

Sports

- **Despite tighter regulation regarding contact to the head instituted by National Hockey League (NHL), a recent study found that there was no reduction in concussion rates among professional players following its enactment in the 2010/2011 season.** Data was gathered to compare concussion rates in the NHL as well as the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), which has even stricter rules, in the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 seasons compared to the 2009/2010 season. Researchers found there was no statistically significant difference between the two leagues over the three seasons studied, with an estimated 5.23 concussions per 100 games in the NHL regular season, versus 5.05 concussions per 100 games in the OHL.

  The concussion incidence rate in the NHL was found to be lower in the 2009/2010 (3.58) season relative to the 2010/2011 (5.28) season, with no significant difference between the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 (6.83) seasons. The conclusion was similar in the OHL study, with the difference being an increase in concussions and suspected concussions in the 2011/2012 (6.18) year relative to 2010/2011 (5.59).
  Data Source: Bodychecking Rules and Concussion in Elite Hockey, published by PLOS ONE

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May 2013	3,404	1.6
Merchandise Exports - May 2013	2,810	3.3
Retail Sales - May 2013	5,152	0.4
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.5	0.3
Vancouver	0.4	0.5
Victoria	-0.8	0.1
Canada	1.2	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	8.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,477.3	-0.1
Employed - BC	2,320.7	0.4
Unemployed - BC	156.6	-7.0
		May 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.3	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 24/2013	July 25/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.10
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 24/2013	July 25/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0298	1.0181
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9694	0.9850
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun 2013	% change on one year ago
BC	869.32	2.2
Canada	882.66	2.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Community Health Atlas

On June 24th, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which partnered with a number of organizations including BC Stats, announced the release of the BC Community Health Atlas. Read about it here: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-06-28/BC_Community_Health_Atlas.aspx

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- No Releases

To Release this week

- Business Indicators, July 2013

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